

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 AGR-20 MMS-04

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PM-07 L-03 EB-11 CU-05 INR-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 COME-00 NSC-07 OPIC-12 PC-10

TRSE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /153 W
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O 051805Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7412

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BB

SUBJ: PRE-IG REVIEW OF BARBADOS/WINDWARD AND LEEWARD ISLANDS CASP

REF: A) A-17, MAR 18, 1974, B) STATE 142597

1. EMBASSY MUCH APPRECIATES THE KIND WORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH REFERENCE TO ITS CASP AND THE AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW, BUT CANNOT HELP EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ITS ONLY TWO MAJOR ISSUES HAVE COME INTO QUESTION AT THE PRE-IG MEETING, DUE TO OTHER AGENCY OPPOSITION UNDERSTANDABLY CAUSED BY THEIR OWN PROGRAM DIFFICULTIES AND PERHAPS LACK OF SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF HOW LITTLE THE USG OR THE EMBASSY CAN DO HERE LACKING THE USUAL AID PROGRAM AVAILABLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY TO MAINTAIN STABLE AND FREINDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NEW NEIGHBORS THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. SUCH GOALS ARE PRIMARY REASON WHY WE ARE HERE, AND THE PURPOSE OF THE CASP IS TO ATTAIN THESE GOALS.

2. AS FAR AS THE FIRST MAJOR ISSUE WHICH THE PRE-IG AGREED NOT TO CONTEST, THE DECISION TO TERMINATE THE PL-480 TITLE II PROGRAM IN THE EASTERN CIRIBBEAN, WE SUPPOSE THERE IS LITTLE THAT THIS EMBASSY CAN DO ABOUT THAT, SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY PRESENTED THE CASE IN THE CASP ITSELF. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE SOME POSSIBILITY OF KEEPING THIS QUESTION

OPEN IF THE CURRENT FACTORS SUCH AS THE AFRICAN FAMINE AND THE SHORTAGE OF APPROPRIATE COMMODITIES SHOULD CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.

3. AS FAR AS THE SECOND ISSUE CONCERNED, WE FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE OF AID TO SUPPORT EXTENSION OF SDAF TO GRENADA. CURRENT POLICY (AND LOGIC) CALL FOR GRENADA, AS INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SDAF IN SAME FASHION AS BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD. ANY "PRECEDENTS" WERE SET AT TIME SDAF WAS EXTENDED TO THESE LATTER TERRITORIES. IT MAKES NO SENSE WHATSOEVER TO DENY SDAF TO GRENADA AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS NO NORMAL USAID PROGRAM AS IN LA, AND WHERE SDAF NEED, REQUESTS AND IMPACT ARE EVEN GREATER THAN IN BARBADOS OR TRINIDAD AND WHERE IT WOULD COST NO MORE, ON GROUNDS THAT NUMBER OF SDAF RECIPIENTS IS NOW TOO LARGE. WHEREAS ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE OF AID OFFICERS WHO HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS, REQUIRED TO BARE THIS QUESTION FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THIS SIMPLE REQUEST WOULD FIND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING AND APPROVAL IN CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES PARTICULARLY IF IT WERE CLEARLY POINTED OUT THAT: (A) GRENADA IS NOW INDEPENDENT, AND EXTENSION TO IT OF SDAF ELIGIBILITY IS LOGICAL AND CONSISTENT WITH USG POLICY TOWARDS INDEPENDENT BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD; (B) SDAF AUTHORIZATION FOR GRENADA WOULD ENTAIL NO ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO USG. WE BELIEVE THAT, BASED ON THE CRITERION OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO GOVERN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, AID'S RELUCTANCE TO FACE CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE AN OVERRIDING FACTOR IN THIS CONNECTION. IT IS A LITTLE LIKE FEARING A TRIP TO THE DENTIST, TO FIND THAT HE ONLY HAS TO CLEAN ONE'S TEETH RATHER THAN PULL THEM OUT.

4. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE CHANGES IN THE CASP TEXT SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL.
DONOVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRIDGE01152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740179-0434
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740774/aaaacflf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) A-17, MAR 18, 1974, B) STATE 1425, 97
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-IG REVIEW OF BARBADOS/WINDWARD AND LEEWARD ISLANDS CASP
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BB, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005